

THE BAG, THE SHELLS, AND THE RIFLE

Statements of Witnesses - E. D. BREWER
Deposition -

April 9, 1964, 6 H 302-8

Brewer had been employed by the Dallas police since December 1954 and is a motorcycle policeman who was preceding the chief's or the lead car. He never heard any shots. His first knowledge of what happened came from the radio. He was sent ahead to stop traffic on the expressway. (p.1303)

After the motorcade went past him toward the hospital, he returned to the Depository where he entered the building and joined other officers who were searching the building. (4 p.303) That day his radio number was 137.

He is shown the log which quotes a 12:38 p.m. call from him to the dispatcher saying, "A witness says he saw 'em pull the weapon from the window off the second floor on the southeast corner of the Depository Building." Asked "Would that have been the second floor or the second ~~from~~ from the top?", Brewer replied, "I don't know."

There are two things surprising about this: First, that with the transcript of the actual recording, Belin would find it necessary not to ask if Brewer had made a mistake, but to suggest the mistake Brewer wanted to find in his quoted report. The second is, that Brewer didn't know.

Brewer remembers the witness he was talking to. Asked what the witness said, Brewer replied, "that he had saw him pull a weapon from the window from that building." Asked which window, Brewer replied, "I don't remember specifically which window he indicated, but I immediately told that to the dispatcher and proceeded on up to the building."

Whether or not later, at this point, Brewer is not asked the name or any identification or identifying characteristics, description, clothing, or anything unusual, etc., about this witness, especially whether he was wearing a helmet.

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He is not asked whether he turned the witness over to anybody, directed that the witness wait for somebody, and he is not asked why he "proceeded" as he did.

It then turns out that Brewer was about 3/4 block away at the time of this conversation with the dispatcher. (p.305)

When again questioned about this witness, the only specific questions he is asked is the man's race. He was a white man. He was on the 6th floor when the shells were found (p.306). He doesn't know where he was. He recalls a paper sack "relatively long paper sack there." He said it was in the southeast corner, not under the window.

He said "it was assumed at that time that it was the sack that the rifle was wrapped up in when it was brought into the building..." He said he assumed it and "that was discussed."

He is not asked any questions about who found the sack, its length, whether or not it was folded, etc. The position in which the other police described ~~exact~~ the sack as being found is folded over, and in that position it could not possibly have accommodated the rifle. He is not asked if he or anyone else handled the sack. He doesn't remember exactly where he was when the rifle was found, but indicates he wasn't too far away. He saw it. His description of the location of the rifle: "It was laying down low on the floor or on the floor down between some, a very narrow space where boxes were stacked up there, and there was a space between the boxes ..."

He is asked no questions about this at all. The one question I would like to have been asked of any of the many people whose testimony I have read on this and one that I think is so obvious everybody should have been asked it, is one intended to show whether or ~~not~~ a man could have walked through this "very narrow space" without leaving fingerprints,

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or whether he would have had to climb over boxes or to restack boxes, and again all with respect to the leaving of fingerprints. He is merely asked what he then did. (p.307)